

**Massachusetts Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program  
Summary of the State Selection and NOAA Nomination Process  
for FY 2008**

The Massachusetts Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Request for Responses (RFR) was issued on September 15, 2006 and resulted in two applications; one from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and one from the Town of Dartmouth. The short response time of the RFR, and the fact that no word had yet been received from the FY 2007 CELCP process may have contributed to the small pool of applicants.

A committee including representatives from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game reviewed the proposals. Both projects had been previously submitted for consideration for FY 2007 CELCP funding. One project had been selected as a state priority project and nominated to NOAA for national consideration for FY 2007 CELCP funding, and in fact had ranked highly in the national competition, but unfortunately not high enough to receive funding. The other project had narrowly missed being selected as a state priority for FY 2007 CELCP funding. The review committee agreed that both of the proposed projects were strong applications seeking to protect valuable coastal and estuarine properties, and that they should be nominated to NOAA as the Massachusetts priority projects for consideration for FY 2008 CELCP funding.

- **Herring River Land Acquisition and Restoration Project** – This two phase project, located in Wellfleet, first requires the acquisition of a 25-acre parcel, which will facilitate an 1,100 acre salt marsh restoration project. The property has approximately 1,380 feet of coastal frontage along Mill Creek and Herring River which both have significant hydraulic restrictions of normal tidal flushing. Acquisition of this 25 acre parcel will be followed by a massive restoration effort that includes restoration of the 25 acre parcel and additional restoration of 1,100 acres of a predominantly freshwater wetland system back to a salt marsh system. Upon completion, this project will constitute the largest wetlands restoration ever undertaken in New England. The project was previously awarded \$468,000 in CELCP funding through a Congressional earmark in FY 06. At that time, it was recognized that additional CELCP funding would be necessary to complete the property acquisition. An additional \$2, 532,000 is being requested in FY 08 CELCP funding to complete the acquisition portion of the project.
- **Apponagansett Bay/Weinshel Farm Conservation Project** – This project is located in Dartmouth and includes the purchase and preservation of 74 acres of a 99-acre property. The project has approximately 3,500 feet of fringing salt marsh shoreline bordering Apponagansett Bay, as well as a mixture of upland fields, forests, and other wetlands. The project expands on other public conservation holdings in the area to form a block of conservation lands that will provide significant opportunities for passive recreation, habitat protection, and aesthetic appreciation, all within a couple miles of the highly developed and urbanized city

of New Bedford. The total cost of this project is estimated at approximately \$8 million of which \$3 million in CELCP funding is being requested.